tities of high level wastes from nuclear fuel cycle activities.

(vi) Launchng of public awareness programmes to inform the public about nuclear power in general and safety and environmental protection measures in particular.

Implementation of Abid Hussain Committee's recommendation on CSIR Laboratories

140. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to implement Abid Hussain Committee's recommendations with regard to CSIR laboratories;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for shelving the report; and

(d) what are the major thrusts of the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee with regard to the CSIR laboratories have been implemented as finally accepted and approved by CSIR Society in the light of the observations made by SAC-PM thereon.

(b) These recommendations pertained to:

*Restructurig of laboratories.

*Performance review of selected laboratories.

*Re-naming of Regional Research Laboratories.

*Transfer of some laboratories to user Government Departments/ Ministries/Departments.

*Divesting of Field/Extension/Regional Centres of laboratories.

*Merger of two laboratories.

*Management and evaluation structures.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The major thrust of the recommendations was to restructure the CSIR and its laboratories to enable greater participation of user Government departments/Agencies and potential clients in policy formulation, idendification/formulation of R&D programmes, project management and funding etc. and also to give the laboratories the adequate autonomy and flexibility of operations to turn out more user responsive and market oriented research results.

Oil exploration at Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica

141. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil exploration will be taken up at Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether some preliminary studies have been conducted there; and

(d) if so, whether these indicate commecrcial possibilities of oil production in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has associated its Geo-Scientists in the 3rd, 4th and 6th Scientific Expeditions to carry out studies in Dakshin Gangotri area for possible hydrocarbon accumulation. The information so far collected in this area is not yet sufficient for a decision on undertaking oil exploration.